

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MVANORDER:DP

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

SSM - MS. GREEN

NEA/ARP - MR. AHERNE

AF/P - MR. POPE

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE

USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION SINAI IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE  
CINCPAC ROUTINE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR  
MARCH 10, 1976:

THAT IS ALL MY ANNOUNCEMENTS. I WOULD LIKE TO RUN  
THROUGH THE QUESTIONS -- NOT AS MANY AS YESTERDAY -- BUT  
THE QUESTIONS FROM YESTERDAY'S BRIEFING ON THE SHEEHAN AR-  
TICLE.

THE FIRST QUESTION WAS: WHEN DID THE SECRETARY SPEAK TO  
THE OFFICIALS THAT BRIEFED MR. SHEEHAN?

A. THE SECRETARY PERSONALLY INTERVIEWED SEVERAL OFFICIALS  
WHO MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE BRIEFINGS -- WHO WERE  
INVOLVED IN THE BRIEFINGS OF MR. SHEEHAN -- AFTER HIS  
RETURN, AFTER THE SECRETARY'S RETURN, FROM CALIFORNIA ON  
MARCH 2ND.

Q. DID HE INTERVIEW THEM SINGLY OR AS A GROUP?

A. I ASSUME THAT IT WAS INDIVIDUALLY.

THE SECOND QUESTION WAS THE QUESTION THAT BARRY RE-  
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SUBMITTED: DID MR. SHEEHAN STAY BEHIND DURING ONE OF THE  
CUSTOMARY BACKGROUND BRIEFINGS ON THE PLANE, AND DID HE  
HAVE -- IN BARRY'S WORDS -- HAVE A RATHER EXTENSIVE  
PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH THE SECRETARY.

I CHECKED BACK WITH THE SECRETARY AND HE REPEATED WHAT  
I HAD RELAYED YESTERDAY, WHICH WAS THAT SHEEHAN HAD BEEN  
ON THE TEL AVIV - ALEXANDRIA LEG OF ONE OF THE SHUTTLES  
ON THE 22ND OF AUGUST, AS PART OF THE PRESS CONTINGENT.  
AND THE SECRETARY DOES NOT RECALL MEETING MR. SHEEHAN  
ALONE AT THAT TIME. BUT HE REITERATED IF HE DID, IT  
COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN FOR A VERY BRIEF MEETING.

Q. BOB, DOES THE USE OF THE WORD "ALONE" MEAN ALONE WITH NO OTHER REPORTERS, OR ALONE WITH NO OTHER OFFICIALS?

A. I THINK THE QUESTION IS THAT FREQUENTLY SOME OF YOU AFTER A BACKGROUND BRIEFING ON THE AIRPLANE FROM A SENIOR OFFICIAL, THEN SOMETIMES REQUEST -- OR NOT NECESSARILY AFTER A BRIEFING, IT IS SOMETIME DURING A LEG -- ASK TO MEET ALONE WITH THE SECRETARY RATHER THAN WITH OTHER PEOPLE.

Q. BOB, WHY DO WE HAVE TO BE DEPENDENT, THOUGH, ON THE SECRETARY'S RECOLLECTION? IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT ONE OF THE SECRETARY'S SECRETARIES ALWAYS MAKES A NOTATION IN THE LOG WHENEVER ANYONE STAYS BEHIND.

A. THAT IS NOT CORRECT. WE DO NOT MAINTAIN A LOG, OR A DEFINITIVE LOG OF MEETINGS THAT TAKE PLACE ON THE AIRPLANE.

Q. IT IS ALSO MY RECOLLECTION ON A FLIGHT FROM TEL AVIV TO ALEXANDRIA, MR. SHEEHAN STAYED FOR ABOUT HALF AN HOUR AFTER THE REST OF US LEFT.

A. THAT IS YOUR RECOLLECTION.

Q. YES, SIR.

A. I CAN ONLY REPEAT THE SECRETARY'S RECOLLECTION.

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THE THIRD QUESTION WAS A REPEAT OF A QUESTION THAT I ANSWERED, BUT IT WAS REITERATED: DO ANY OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WHO WERE BRIEFED BY MR. SHEEHAN MAINTAIN THAT HE, MR. SHEEHAN, VIOLATED UNDERSTANDINGS THAT THEY HAD AS TO THE NATURE OF THE BRIEFINGS?

AND MY ANSWER REMAINS AS I SAID YESTERDAY: WE ARE CONTINUING TO LOOK INTO THIS MATTER, AND I AM NOT ABLE TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION.

FOURTH QUESTION. THE QUESTION WAS ASKED: WERE THE PERSONS WHO BRIEFED MR. SHEEHAN REQUIRED TO SUBMIT ANY MEMORANDA OF WHAT THEY HAD DONE AT A BRIEFING, OR WAS THERE ANY MONITORING OF THE BRIEFING? AND THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION IS NO.

THE NEXT QUESTION WAS ABOUT THE TIME-FRAME IN WHICH MR. SHEEHAN INTERVIEWED STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS. AND THE TIME-FRAME THAT MR. SHEEHAN INTERVIEWED STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WAS THE PERIOD BETWEEN APRIL AND OCTOBER 1975. (NOVEMBER OF 1975).

FINALLY, THERE WAS A QUESTION: WILL THERE BE A HEARING ARRANGED FOR THESE OFFICERS? AND IF THERE IS A HEARING, WOULD THE OFFICER OR OFFICERS INVOLVED HAVE A RIGHT TO BRING LEGAL COUNSEL WITH THEM?

THE ANSWER IS: THERE ARE NO PRESENT PLANS TO HAVE HEARINGS ON THIS MATTER. BUT IF HEARINGS ARE HELD, OBVIOUSLY OFFICERS WOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY LEGAL COUNSEL.

Q. YESTERDAY, WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS SAID THE NAME OF THE SUSPECTED LEAKER HAD BEEN TRANSMITTED TO THE WHITE HOUSE SUNDAY. IS THAT SO?

A. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. BECAUSE IF YOU KNOW WHO THE LEAKER IS, ALL THIS INVESTIGATION IS JUST A SHAM.

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A. NO. I THINK, AS I INDICATED YESTERDAY, WE HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA OF WHICH OFFICIALS BRIEFED MR. SHEEHAN, BUT WE HAVE NOT COMPLETED OUR INVESTIGATION OR OUR DETERMINATION OF THE FACTS. AND WHEN WE DO, WE WILL ANNOUNCE IT.

Q. DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU DON'T KNOW WHICH OF THE PEOPLE WHO BRIEFED SHEEHAN LET HIM IN ON THE CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS?

A. I JUST HAVE TO SAY, THAT WE HAVE NOT COMPLETED OUR INVESTIGATION. AND WHEN WE HAVE, WE WILL ANNOUNCE IT. IT HASN'T ENDED YET.

Q. I BELIEVE I ASKED YESTERDAY, AT WHAT LEVEL SOMEONE CAN AUTHORIZE THE RELEASE OF THESE DOCUMENTS, AND THAT WAS NEVER ANSWERED TO MY KNOWLEDGE.

A. I WENT THROUGH THE BRIEFING AND I THINK I DID MAKE AN ATTEMPT TO ANSWER IT. I DID NOT REFER TO ANY SPECIFIC REGULATIONS, BUT I THINK WE COULD GET THOSE OUT. I SAID DIFFERENT OFFICIALS HAVE DIFFERENT AUTHORITY AS TO THE KINDS OF DOCUMENTS THEY CAN RELEASE OR DECLASSIFY.

Q. IS THE SECRETARY THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD AUTHORIZE THE DISCLOSURE OF THE CONTENTS OF THESE DOCUMENTS?

A. I DO NOT KNOW THAT HE IS THE ONLY PERSON, BUT THE POINT IS, CERTAINLY IN THIS INSTANCE, THAT HE DID NOT AUTHORIZE ANY DISCLOSURE. AND THOSE PEOPLE WHO MAY HAVE REVEALED CONTENTS OF CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS DID NOT HAVE THE AUTH-

ORITY TO DO SO.

Q. I SHOULD HAVE ASKED YESTERDAY, BUT LET ME TRY TODAY.  
WHEN YOU SAID THE INVESTIGATION WILL GO INTO THE MOTIVATION AND THE RECORDS -- YOUR WORDS WERE "MOTIVATION" AND I BELIEVE "RECORD" OR "RECORDS" -- FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

A. I DID ANSWER THAT.

Q. MAYBE I MISSED IT.  
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A. IT IS IN THE TRANSCRIPT. I SAID THAT IT SEEMED TO US THAT IN INVESTIGATING THIS MATTER AND DETERMINING THE FACTS, AND BEFORE MAKING A DECISION ON THE APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINE TO BE TAKEN, WE WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT -- AND WE FELT IT WAS FAIR TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT -- THE MOTIVATION OF OFFICIALS IN MAKING THE KIND OF DISCLOSURES THAT MAY HAVE OCCURRED. WAS IT, AS WE BELIEVE IT WAS, A SERIOUS ERROR OF JUDGMENT. OR WAS IT, AS IT IS IN SOME CASES, AN INSTANCE OF PEOPLE LEAKING THINGS FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES OR FOR OTHER MOTIVES? AND THEN, IN TERMS OF THEIR RECORDS, WHAT I REFERRED TO, I BELIEVE, IS WHAT ARE THE RECORDS OF OFFICIALS WHO MAY BE INVOLVED IN THIS.

Q. I GUESS YOU MEAN POSSIBLE MOTIVATION.

A. RIGHT. I WILL QUALIFY IT.

Q. HAVE YOU HAD ANY DEMARCHES OR INQUIRIES FROM ANY OF THE GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED?

A. NO.

Q. DOES THE SECRETARY THEN CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT SOME OF THIS LEAKING INTO THE PUBLIC PRINT CAN AFFECT THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF HIS NEGOTIATIONS?

A. AS I SAID ON FRIDAY, AND I THINK AS I REITERATED EACH DAY SINCE FRIDAY, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO PROTECT THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES, AND THIS IS A FIRM PRINCIPLE WHICH WE INTEND TO ADHERE TO.

Q. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THIS ARTICLE PER SE, AND WHAT HAS BEEN QUOTED HERE, HAS IN ANY WAY HARMED THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THIS GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED?

A. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE THAT KIND OF AN ASSESSMENT AT THIS TIME.

Q. IT IS NOT REALLY A QUESTION SO MUCH AS A REQUEST OF

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YOU. COULD YOU, IN YOUR CAPACITY AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PRESS RELATIONS MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE REST OF THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE FACT THAT SOME OFFICIALS ARE BEING DISCIPLINED FOR RELEASING SOME UN-AUTHORIZED INFORMATION SHOULD NOT AFFECT THE BEHAVIOR OF OTHER OFFICIALS TALKING TO REPORTERS?

A. SO NOTED.

Q. DOES THE SECRETARY HAVE ANY FEELINGS NOW ABOUT THE DEGREE OF DISCIPLINE THAT SHOULD BE LEVELED AGAINST THESE OFFICIALS?

A. NO, THAT DECISION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN YET.

Q. HE HAS NO FEELINGS HIMSELF THAT HE WOULD NOT WANT TO SACRIFICE A MAN'S CAREER FOR WHATEVER WAS DONE HERE?

A. HE HAS NOT COMMUNICATED THAT DIRECTLY TO ME, BUT THE REASON THAT I MENTIONED THE FACT THAT IN DECIDING ON THE LEVEL OF DISCIPLINE, WE WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT POSSIBLE MOTIVATION, AS WELL AS THE OFFICIAL'S RECORD, REFLECTS THAT WE ARE NOT JUST LOOKING AT THE UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE BY ITSELF.

Q. WHO IS "WE" IN THAT CONTEXT, BOB -- THE SECRETARY HIMSELF?

A. "WE" IS THE DEPARTMENT.

Q. WILL THERE BE A BOARD OF INQUIRY? HOW IS THAT DETERMINATION TO BE MADE?

A. I AM NOT AWARE OF A BOARD. AS I INDICATED, THE TWO OFFICIALS PRIMARILY INVOLVED IN THIS INQUIRY ARE THE SECRETARY AND DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY EAGLEBERGER.

Q. HAVE YOU DETERMINED THE MECHANISM FOR ANNOUNCING THIS? ARE YOU JUST GOING TO SAY THAT MR. X HAS BEEN GIVEN BAD MARKS, OR ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE A REPORT GIVING THE FULL STORY.

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A. WE HAVEN'T DETERMINED THE MECHANISM AS YET, NO.

Q. IT HAS BEEN MORE THAN A WEEK SINCE THE ADMINISTRATION BEGAN CONSULTING WITH CONGRESS ON THE SALE OF C-130'S TO EGYPT. HAS THE DETERMINATION NOW BEEN MADE ON WHETHER

TO GO AHEAD WITH THIS SALE, AND WHEN SO?

A. I HAVE NOT BEEN INFORMED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS DECIDED YET TO SEND UP THE LETTER OF DETERMINATION, WHICH IS THE DECISION-MAKING MECHANISM. I WILL CHECK AGAIN ON THAT.

Q. THERE'S A REPORT ON THE FBIS WIRE THAT QUOTES MR. RABIN AS SUGGESTING THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS DECIDED TO EMBARK UPON THE SALE OF SOPHISTICATED ARMS -- THE WORD HE USES -- ARMS TO EGYPT. IS THE SITUATION UNCHANGED? IS THE C-130'S STILL THE ONLY SALE CONTEMPLATED?

A. THAT IS CORRECT.

Q. WAIT A SECOND, BOB. WHEN YOU SAY "THE ONLY SALE CONTEMPLATED," DO YOU WANT TO PUT ANY QUALIFIER ON THAT?

A. THE ONLY SPECIFIC ITEM THAT IS PRESENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION IS THE PROPOSAL TO SELL SIX C-130'S.

NOW, IN THE COURSE OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CONGRESS AS WELL AS WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WE HAVE, AS I INDICATED, BEEN DISCUSSING THE WHOLE GENERAL QUESTION -- THE PROBLEM OR THE QUESTION -- OF WHAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD DO IN THE SITUATION WHICH WE NOW HAVE AND IN WHICH THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT, PRESIDENT SADAT, HAS DECIDED NOT TO BE DEPENDENT ON THE SOVIET UNION FOR ITS MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP. AND HE HAS INDICATED TO US -- BOTH TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND TO THE GOVERNMENT -- HIS INTEREST IN PROCURING SOME MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM THE US.

BUT THAT IS ONLY IN A GENERAL SENSE, AND THAT IS DOWN THE ROAD. WE HAVEN'T MADE ANY DECISION IN THAT REGARD. IT HAS BEEN IN THE FORM OF A DISCUSSION. THE ONLY SPECIFIC UNCLASSIFIED

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ITEMS ARE THE SIX C-130'S.

Q. IT HAS BEEN MENTIONED THAT SOME SPECIFICS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION AND SOME OF THESE SPECIFIC ITEMS OF HARDWARE HAVE BEEN MENTIONED TO THEM. IS THAT AN ERROR?

A. THERE HAS BEEN A DISCUSSION OF GENERAL CATEGORIES OF THE KINDS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT THAT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED IN SOME FUTURE MILITARY RELATIONSHIP. AND WE HAVE DISCUSSED IT WITH THEM IN THE SAME SENSE THAT WE HAVE DISCUSSED IT WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. BUT THE FACT IS THAT THE ONLY SPECIFIC ITEMS ARE THE SIX C-130'S. (THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT)

Q. WHEN YOU SPEAK OF EGYPT'S DESIRES, WERE THEY SPECIFIC

ENOUGH TO SPEAK IN TERMS OF, LET'S SAY, THE UNITED STATES SUPPLYING FORTY PERCENT OF EGYPT'S ARMS NEEDS?

A. NO, THAT IS NOT MY UNDERSTANDING AT ALL. MY UNDERSTANDING HAS BEEN THAT THE CONVERSATIONS THE EGYPTIANS HAD WITH US WERE IN A GENERAL SENSE, AND WE HAVE NEVER REALLY GOT INTO ANY SPECIFIC DETAILS ON THE NATURE THAT THIS RELATIONSHIP MIGHT TAKE.

Q. AS YOU LOOK DOWN THE ROAD, AND IF ALL THESE OBSTACLES ARE CLEARED -- FOR INSTANCE, IF CONGRESS GOES AHEAD, AND I SUPPOSE IF THE ELECTION IS COMPLETED -- HOW MUCH OF EGYPT'S ARMS NEEDS WOULD THE UNITED STATES LIKE TO SUPPLY?

A. I DON'T THINK THAT QUESTION HAS EITHER BEEN POSED OR LOOKED AT. I DON'T THINK WE HAVE REACHED THAT --

Q. DON'T WE HAVE A LONG-RANGE PLAN? I MEAN, ARE WE JUST GOING TO GO A HELICOPTER AT A TIME AND THEN, WHOOPS, THE FIRST THING WE KNOW WE ARE SUPPLYING THE ARMY?

A. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE PRESENT LEVEL OF CONSIDERATION, AS EXPLAINED BOTH TO THE CONGRESS AND TO THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT -- ASIDE FROM THE SIX C-130'S -- HAS BEEN, IN A MORE GENERAL FRAMEWORK AND IN A MORE CONCEPTUAL UNCLASSIFIED

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MODE AS FAR AS THE CATEGORIES OF THINGS THAT COULD CONCEIVABLY OR COULD POSSIBLY BE CONSIDERED DOWN THE ROAD. BUT IT IS NOT MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY QUANTITATIVE JUDGMENT SUCH AS YOUR QUESTION SUGGESTS.

Q. SO WE'VE MADE NO JUDGMENT REALLY AS TO, LET'S SAY, WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE EGYPT HAVE TWO, THREE, FOUR, OR FIVE YEARS FROM NOW?

A. NOT WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE, BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T APPROACHED IT THAT WAY, BUT WE HAVE DISCUSSED GENERAL CATEGORIES OF POSSIBILITIES.

Q. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GENERAL CATEGORY AND SPECIFIC?

A. IT'S NOT SPECIFIC. I AM USING THE WORDS "GENERAL CATEGORIES." IN ANY EVENT --

Q. ISN'T IT A FACT THAT THE ISRAELIS WERE TOLD OF VARIOUS CATEGORIES, SUCH AS RADAR EQUIPMENT, PATROL BOATS, TRANSPORT HELICOPTERS, AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AS CATEGORIES UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE GENERAL CATEGORY OF NON-LETHAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT?



A. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO IDENTIFY THE ITEMS THAT WERE DISCUSSED WITH THE CONGRESS AND WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT, BUT THERE WERE GENERAL CATEGORIES DISCUSSED, AND THERE WERE OBVIOUSLY DIFFERENT KINDS OF EQUIPMENT IDENTIFIED.

Q. THE EGYPTIANS -- I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE TO USE THE SHOPPING-LIST CONCEPT -- BUT HAVEN'T THE EGYPTIANS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SOMETHING MORE SPECIFIC THAN GENERAL CATEGORIES? I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN BY GENERAL CATEGORIES, BUT I'M THINKING IN TERMS OF, WHEN YOU SAY HELICOPTER TRANSPORTS, THAT THAT'S MORE THAN A GENERAL CATEGORY.

A. THERE HAS BEEN IDENTIFICATION OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF EQUIPMENT.  
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Q. AND EVEN RIGHT DOWN TO, SAY, F-5'S OR PLANES --I'M TALKING NOW IN EGYPTIAN INTERESTS -- ANTI-MISSILE, ANTI-TANK MISSILES, THAT KIND OF THING. I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT NUMBERS NECESSARILY. BUT THEIR INTEREST HAS BEEN QUITE A BIT MORE SPECIFIC THAN WE ORDINARILY THINK THE WORD "GENERAL CATEGORY" MEANS?

A. BUT MORE IN THE SORT OF EXPOSITION THAT OZZIE WAS POSING IN HIS QUESTION RATHER THAN IN THE MORE LETHAL CHARACTER OF WEAPONS THAT YOU JUST MENTIONED.

Q. BUT THE EGYPTIANS HAVE SHOWN AN INTEREST, HAVEN'T THEY, IN MORE LETHAL WEAPONS THAN SIMPLY RADIO EQUIPMENT OR HELICOPTERS?

A. I HAVE NOT BEEN BRIEFED ON THAT.

Q. IS IT THE POSITION OF THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT THAT EGYPT IS NOT NOW AND HAS NOT FOR SOME TIME BEEN RECEIVING RESUPPLY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM THE SOVIET UNION?

A. THAT IS CORRECT.

Q. FOR HOW LONG -- IS IT THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT -- FOR HOW LONG HAS THAT BEEN TRUE?

A. I DO NOT KNOW. I WILL TAKE THAT QUESTION AND TRY TO GET AN ANSWER.

Q. TO FOLLOW THAT UP, THERE WAS A REPORT DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, I BELIEVE, TO THE EFFECT THAT THE SOVIETS HAD BLOCKED THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT FROM SUPPLYING SPARE PARTS. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT AT ALL?

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT.

AFTER THE BRIEFING THE FOLLOWING Q AND A WAS POSTED FOR  
THE PRESS:

Q. WHEN DID THE SOVIET SUPPLY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO  
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EGYPT CEASE?

A. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THE SOVIET UNION ENDED  
WITHIN THE LAST YEAR ITS SUPPLY OF MAJOR MILITARY EQUIP-  
MENT TO EGYPT. SINCE THEN THE SOVIETS HAVE SUPPLIED ONLY  
MINOR EQUIPMENT, AMMUNITION AND SPARE PARTS ON A  
SPORADIC BASIS. EARLY THIS YEAR THE SOVIETS STOPPED  
VIRTUALLY ALL DELIVERY OF SUCH CRITICAL PARTS AS AIRCRAFT  
ENGINES.

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DOHA  
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